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The Lord Gage's Speech.



My friends,

abolition is a

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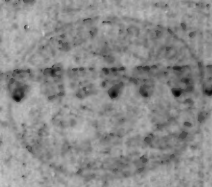
and right

(No.)

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The Lord Gage's Speech.

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T H E
S P E E C H

OF THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

The Lord Viscount Gage, (M^{rs}.)

I N

P A R L I A M E N T,

AGAINST THE

CONVENTION with SPAIN.

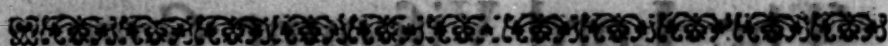


L O N D O N:

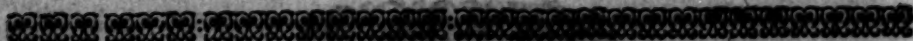
Printed for F. STILE, in Holborn, 1739.

THE
S P E E C H

OF THE RIGHT HONOURABLE



The Publick may be assured, that the SPEECH of
this Noble LORD, as well as the SPEECHES of
some other Members of the Honourable HOUSE
of COMMONS, (that will speedily be printed)
are as perfect as any Thing can be that is taken
in Short-Hand.



L O N D O N :
Printed for T. STURGE, in Holborn, 1730.

S I R,



S incapable as I am of entering into a Debate of this Nature, I can't with that Duty I think I owe my Country, and those I have the Honour to Represent, sit still and only give a Negative to the Question before us: For I look on this Address, that is propos'd to be made His Majesty, to be no more than a Vote of Approbation of the Measures taken by the Administration, and of Thanks for the Blessing the Nation has obtain'd by this Convention with *Spain*, of which I once said before, had a Messenger with proper Instructions been sent over in a Fisher-Boat, he would have brought us back a better, than that we have got.

As to any Compliments that are to be paid His Majesty, no one is more ready to join in them than myself; but as by the Laws of this Land the King can do no Wrong, so I look on this Convention as the Work of the Minister, and as such I shall speak of it; and that it is so, is clear for every body, let him be never so dim-sighted (that has not had Dust thrown into his Eyes) must see that this glorious Convention, that has cost the Nation not above Half a Million of Money is more a Ministerial Expedient to get over this Session of Parliament, than a Thing calculated either for the Dignity of the Crown, the Satisfaction of the Merchants, or Reparation for the repeated Insults on the Honour of the Nation.

WHEN I first read the Convention, I was surpriz'd to find that our indisputable Right to free Navigation, and no Search at

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any Distance from Land, was to be referr'd to Plenipotentiaries at a future Congress: The referring an indisputable Right, is in a Manner weakening the Title, not that I apprehend, that any Minister at home or abroad will ever dare give up this Right of ours.

BUT why is this to be discussed in a future Treaty? Why after the Resolutions the Parliament last Year came into, was not this the first Article in the Convention. *Sine qua non*, as to any Treaty with *Spain*, can there be any one weak enough to imagine, that Plenipotentiaries sitting at a round Table with Pen, Ink and Paper before them can procure for this Nation, what our Fleet could not have done last Year, with Cannon, Powder and Ball.

BESIDES by having deferr'd doing ourselves Justice, *England* may have lost a very lucky Juncture: *France* and *Spain* was not then on so good Terms, as I am afraid they are at present. Had the *Spaniards* been attackt last Year in *New-Spain*, we should have found them unprovided, their Garrisons without Men, and their Fortifications out of Repair. But this they have taken Care to remedy for the Future, by the great Number of Troops they have since sent thither, and by working Day and Night at their Fortifications.

BUT as on the one Hand they are grown stronger, so we on the other are grown Weaker and Poorer: We, Sir, last Year threw away a vast Sum of Money to no purpose, but to be laught at by all Nations, and they by our Leave are bringing home, in their Galleons, vast Sums of Money to be employ'd against us.

WHAT have we been doing for these last Twenty Years but Negotiating to no Purpose? What is there in this Treaty more than in all former Ones? Did not *Spain* by the Treaty of *Madrid*, in the Year 1721, which Treaty was confirm'd by another in the same Year, call'd the triple Alliance, stipulate that all former Treaties should be confirm'd and expressly promised

mised that all Goods, Merchandizes, Money, Ships, and other Effects, which have been siez'd as well in *Spain* as the *Indies*, should be speedily Restor'd in the same Kind, or according to the just and true Value of them, at the Time they were siez'd: Has there been a Tittle of this perform'd? Has our Merchants ever had any Satisfaction made them for their Ships, their Effects and Money they were plunder'd off? Why, no.

BUT yet every Man, that at that Time did not believe they should, was look'd upon as a Jacobite, a Man disaffected to His Majesty, or at least to his Minister, which was as bad, if not worse. So far were the *Spaniards* from performing one Article of this Treaty, that they us'd us worse than ever, and so continued doing till the Merchants came with fresh Complaints, which they laid again before the House of Commons, where I can't say, they were very civilly us'd by some, however they made out very clear the Allegations of the Petition, and proved their Losses beyond Contradiction.

UPON this, vigorous Resolutions were again enter'd into by the House of Commons to obtain Justice and Satisfaction for the Merchants, and in order to obtain it, our then and present Ministers finding that they had not succeeded in any one Treaty they had yet made, enter'd into another called the Treaty of *Seville*, sign'd in the Year 1729.

By the first Article of this Treaty all former Treaties of Peace, Friendship and Commerce, are again Renew'd and Confirm'd: And *Spain* expressly promis'd not to do any Thing, nor suffer any Thing to be done, that might be contrary there-to Directly or Indirectly.

IN the 4th Article of this Treaty it is particularly agreed, that the Commerce of the *English* Nation in *America*, should be Exercis'd as heretofore: And that Orders should be dispatched without any Delay to the *Indies* for that Purpose.

By the 6th Article of it, Commissaries were to be named who were to settle the Limits and Pretensions of the Merchants:

And *Spain* promised to execute punctually and exactly, within six Months, what should be decided by the said Commissaries, who were to make their Report in three Years, but there being nothing done in the first three Years, the Term was renew'd for three Years more, in order to do nothing — which succeeded accordingly.

AND I remember very well, that an honourable Gentleman on the Floor * opposite to me did at the Time of the making this Treaty often say, that he was sure if the Government would give the Merchants the Money that was to be allow'd the Commissaries, they would get more by that, than from the Treaty, which I think has proved but too true: for those Gentlemen for themselves, have not received less than twenty thousand Pounds: whereas the Merchants have not received twenty Pence.

BUT yet at that Time this honourable Gentlemen as well as myself, and all those who thought as we did, were look'd upon as a Set of disaffected People, as they are now, who don't like this Convention, and expect no more Good from it, than from all the former Treaties.

AND as for my Part, I own I expect no Good from it, but apprehend much hurt: Our Right to free Navigation, and no Search not being inserted in it, but left to Commissaries.

I find also, by what I call the Preliminary Article, the King of *Spain's* Protest, that the South-Sea Company's Assiento Contract will be annulled by the Company's having refused (a few Days ago in a full Court) to pay the sixty eight thousand Pounds, the King of *Spain* demands of them by that Protest deliver'd to Mr. Keene. What Authority Mr. Keene could have to make this Bargain for the South-Sea-Company, and give up a Property they are entitled to, by Virtue of Treaties and Acts of Parliament, I can't apprehend. And tho' their Loss may be no national Point; yet so great a Body of *Englishmen*, whose Property

* Mr. Pulteney.

property is concern'd, deserves at least the Protection of Parliament.

THE next Thing, that I have good Reason to believe will be given up, or at least taken from us, is *Georgia*, tho' hitherto supported by great Sums of Money given by Parliament, and granted by a Royal-Charter to the present Trustees: For you'll find by the second Article of this Convention, that the poor People, who, under the Protection of this Government, have transported themselves thither, are to be left naked and defenceless, exposed to the Mercy of the *Spaniards*, whenever they please to attack them, by being restrain'd from the Means of Self-Preservation. For by that Article it is agreed, that neither the *Spaniards*, nor they should raise any Fortifications.

Now, Sir, I can see but one Reason, why this was stipulated in the Manner I have mention'd, for it regards only us (we demanding no Part of the King of *Spain's* Territories) and that is this; our Ministers finding that *Spain* did not much like our Settlement at *Georgia*, and they not daring, by a solemn Treaty to yield it up, they might whisper the *Spanish Ministers*, and tell them we are sorry we don't dare give it you up, but we will agree it shall be left defenceless, and then you may easily take it, and we not call'd to an Account for it: This is not at all improbable, when we consider how industrious our Ministers have been to find out Expedients to be well with *Spain*, for the Good of their Country.

Now I have been shewing you, what I apprehend we shall lose, let us see a little, what it is we have a Prospect of getting: That of no Search, free Navigation, and Satisfaction to our Merchants, I am sure it won't be, for the Reasons I have mention'd before, as well as from what fell from the honourable Gentleman that spoke last, for it is not to be suppos'd, but what as far as fair Means would go every Method has been already try'd: And he just now as good as told us, we could proceed by no other: for that we had neither Money
to

to go to War with, nor Friend, nor Ally in the World to support us; and he must know, who has been our grand Negotiator for these last twenty Years; a pretty Account, I must own, he has given us of the Success of his Negotiations, as well as prudent Declaration from one in his Post.

BUT by this Treaty he tells us, there is to be ample Satisfaction given to our Merchants, how far they are satisfy'd with the Convention the House may judge, from what they have heard them declare at the Bar.

HE says, they are to receive one hundred and fifty five thousand Pounds, which will be in full Satisfaction of their Losses, tho' by the Bye, their Demands on *Spain* were for 3 hundred and 40 thousand Pounds, but our Commissary, by a Stroke of his Pen, reduced them to two hundred thousand Pounds, being as he thought full enough for our Merchants, and then to induce *Spain* to Prompt-Payment forty five thousand Pounds more was struck off, which brings it to the Sum the honourable Gentleman has mention'd, *Spain* is certainly to pay us: And upon this Point, I find, he chiefly seems to extol the Goodness of the Convention, and the Ability of the Ministers in bringing *Spain* to this Condescension: For that *Spain* paying the Money was owning her Fault, and declaring the Illegality of her Proceedings: In answer to this, in the first Place, I don't believe *Spain* will ever pay us a Farthing of the Money, and in the next Place, suppose the Money mention'd should be paid the Merchants, let us see how much *Spain* is to pay us of it.

WHY in the first Place towards making up the one hundred and fifty five thousand Pounds for the Satisfaction of the Merchants, *Spain* insists on *England* allowing her sixty thousand Pounds as the remaining Part of a Debt due to her for having destroy'd Her Fleet in the Year 1718. Very Gracious indeed, that they did not carry her Demands as far back as Queen ELIZABETH's Reign, for the Fleet then destroy'd.

BUT as strange as this Demand of *Spain* may seem from Her,

Her, it is much more so in those who have agreed to it, for it has been already once satisfy'd, as appears by those Papers on your Table, which are Copies of the Instructions sent to our Ministers in *Spain* at the Treaty of *Seville*, wherein is mention'd as follows. In Case *Spain* shall make any further Demands of you for the loss of their Fleet, destroy'd by Sir *George Byng*, afterwards Lord *Torrington*, you are to tell the *Spanish-Ministers*, that *Spain* has been already amply satisfy'd, and you are not to enter into any farther Discussion with them on that Head.

ANOTHER Time *Spain* paid themselves this Demand by Seizing the South-Sea-Company's Effects, *Spain* at that Time declaring, that they were seiz'd and kept on that Account: But what does it signify, if for the sake of obtaining this most advantageous Convention we should pay it Her a third Time. And then it reduces what *Spain* is to pay us, to ninety five thousand Pounds.

IN the next Place towards paying the ninety five thousand Pounds, the King of *Spain*, insists by his Protest as I mention'd before, That the South-Sea-Company shall immediately pay him sixty eight thousand Pounds, being a Debt due to him from the Company, on one Head of Accounts, tho' at the same Time, on other Heads of Accounts, His Majesty is indebted to the Company a Million over and above, as appears on your Table, for which they are to stay his Time.

Now these two Sums make one hundred and twenty eight thousand Pounds, that I think *England* is to pay our Merchants instead of *Spain* (if ever paid) so there remains but twenty seven thousand Pounds for *Spain* to pay, of which twenty seven thousand Pounds, She has taken Care to be excused from paying one farthing, as appears by the Stipulations by way of Draw-back, inserted in the 4th Article of the Convention, and the 2d seperate Article.

FOR by those Articles *Spain* is to deduct out of the Money she

she is to pay whatever she may have already given in Satisfaction for any of our Ships that have been taken. And *England* is also to allow *Spain* the Value of the *St. Theresa*, a Ship of theirs that had been seiz'd in the Port of *Dublin* in the Year 1735. All this is to be settled by our Plenipotentiaries, and I think we shall come off well, if on the Balance of Accounts instead of receiving the twenty seven thousand Pounds, we shan't be oblig'd to pay an Overplus to *Spain*. Here ends, Sir, a short Narrative of the ample Satisfaction *England* is to receive from *Spain* for the three hundred and forty thousand Pounds due to Her Merchants. A most Glorious Convention I must own, and such a Master-Piece in Politics, that I dare say none of the Machiavilians of the Age, but our own at the Head of Affairs, could have thought of.

BUT, yet after all this, we shall be told I dare say, that this thorough Dislike to the Convention, and Flame the Nation is in, is rais'd only by a Parcel of Merchants, and discontented People, who only want to turn out the Ministers.

No, Sir, that is not the Case, for it is not the Ministers but their Measures, that has kindled this Flame: Facts will always speak for themselves, and Merchants will always know their own Interest.

BUT when the continued Depredations on our Merchants, the repeated Insults on the Honour of the Nation, the Cruelties and Barbarities, exercised on our Sailors, our Country-Men thrown into Dungeons, and chain'd like Slaves, I say when this is consider'd, and no more Prospect of Redress from this Convention than a Piece of waste Paper, no Wonder, that the Heart of every *Englishman* should be inflam'd.

I beg Pardon, Sir, for having taken up so much of your Time, but shall be against this Address to His Majesty, because I look on this Convention as Disadvantagious to the Merchants, Dishonourable to the King, and Ignominious to the Nation.

F I N I S.

